

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-20, 31-46 and 48-57 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Turocy during the personal interview held on August 1, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-8, 13-14, 31-39, 41-44, 48-49 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,898,443 to Yoshino et al. (hereinafter "Yoshino"). Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 8, 13-20, 35-37, 40-44, 48-51 and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by European Patent Application EP 1 093 167 by Yamazaki et al. (hereinafter "Yamazaki"). The Office Action rejects claims 4-7, 31-34, 38-39, 45-46 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Yoshino. Further, the Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 31-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Abstract 2000-323276 by Seki et al. (hereinafter "Seki") in view of Yamazaki, further in view of Japanese Patent Abstract 06-306181 by Hiraga et al. (hereinafter "Hiraga"), Yoshino, and the admitted state of the art (hereinafter "ASA"). Finally, the Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seki in view of Yamazaki, further in view of Hiraga, Yoshino, and ASA, and still further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,296,354 to Hashimoto. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

During the course of the interview, the Examiner and the Applicant's representative discussed potential claim amendments in order to identify additional patentably distinct

features of the Applicant's features of the Applicant's disclosure. The Examiner noted that patentably distinct subject matter may exist in the Applicant's ejection test feature.

Additionally, the Examiner and Applicant's representatives agree that none of the above references specifically teach a first material without a solvent dissolving the first material, as discussed below.

The Office Action asserts that both Yoshino and Yamazaki teach all of the features as positively recited in independent claims 1 and 14. However, neither of the references disclose ejection of a first material from a first nozzle without a solvent dissolving the first material, as positively recited in claims 1 and 14.

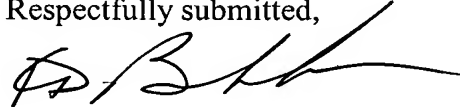
In fact, Yoshino explicitly teaches a solvent, such as a dispersion agent, used in an ink, as discussed in col. 10, lines 31-33, lines 62-64 and col. 11, lines 18-20, lines 41-43. Further, none of Seki, Hiraga, ASA or Hashimoto teach, nor would they have suggested, the above discussed feature. For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 14 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, claims 2-11, 13, 15-20, 31-46 and 48-57 are also allowable, at least for their dependence on allowable independent claims 1 and 14, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each claim recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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